

Reply to notice of Non-Compliant Amendment  
U.S.S.N. 10/075,355  
Page 2 of 4

**AMENDMENT**

**In the claims:**

Claims 1-54 are currently pending. Claims 7, 14, and 17-54 are now canceled. Claims 1 and 6 are amended herein. Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15 and 16 are presented for reconsideration.

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A process for making a biocompatible biodegradable fleece, the process comprising:
  - a. providing a composition comprising a crosslinkable synthetic macromer, the synthetic macromer comprising a polymeric hydrophilic region surrounded by two or more regions each comprising one or more moieties forming a biodegradable region and a group crosslinkable moiety by a free radical chain reaction;
  - b. freezing the composition in a desired shape;
  - c. vacuum-drying the composition; and
  - d. crosslinking the crosslinkable macromer composition in the frozen or dried state resulting from step b or c to produce the fleece, wherein the crosslinking is performed by a free radical chain reaction.
2. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the vacuum-drying step is performed before the crosslinking step.
3. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the vacuum-drying step is performed after the crosslinking step.
4. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the macromer composition further comprises at least one of a polymerization-causing material and a biologically active agent.
5. (original) The process of claim 4 wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, growth regulating molecules, hemostatic agents, antibodies, antigens, transfection vectors, expression vectors, anesthetics, and anti-arrhythmic agents.

Reply to notice of Non-Compliant Amendment  
U.S.S.N. 10/075,355  
Page 3 of 4

6. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the crosslinking is performed by the use of ~~at least one of ionizing radiation, non-ionizing~~ ultraviolet, visible or infrared radiation; ~~heat, addition of initiators, and addition of crosslinking chemicals or ions.~~

7. (canceled)

8. (original) The process of claim 1 further comprising a rinsing of the crosslinked macromer.

9. (original) The process of claim 8 further comprising the step of shredding the crosslinked macromer after rinsing.

10. (original) The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of shredding the crosslinked macromer to form fleece particulates.

11. (original) The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of shredding the crosslinked macromer after at least one of the freezing step and the vacuum-drying step.

12. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein a supporting material is incorporated into the fleece.

13. (original) The process of claim 12 where the incorporation of the supporting material occurs during the freezing step.

14. (canceled)

15. (original) The process of claim 10, further comprising the wetting of the fleece particulates with an aqueous solution.

16. (original) The process of claim 15 further comprising the adding of at least one of a cell, a polymerization-causing material, and a biologically active agent to the wetted fleece particulates.

17-54 (Canceled)